

Anchored in the Word

We lift our eyes unto the hills,
From where our healing flows,
A wife and daughter wrapped in peace
That only Jesus knows.

You were a man of quiet strength,
Like trees beside the stream,
Who led our home in truth and grace,
Fulfilling heaven's dream.

Now absent from the flesh,
But present with the Lord,
Your faith has turned to perfect sight,
Your final crown restored.

Go rest upon the mountain high,
With the Shepherd of our days,
Until Esther and I join our voices there
In everlasting praise.



WILLIE HAROLD SIMMONS

JANUARY 30, 1953 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Willie Harold Simmons, 73, of Little Rock, Arkansas, entered into the presence of his Lord and Savior on September 23, 2026. Born on January 30, 1953, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, to his beloved mother, Geraldine McGee, Willie lived a life defined by unwavering faith, deep love for his family, and a heart devoted to serving others.

To those who knew him, Willie was much more than the many titles he carried throughout his life. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, a cherished godfather, a trusted friend, and a faithful brother in Christ. His greatest joy was found in the people he loved. Family was the center of his world, and he poured his heart into every relationship he was blessed to have. Whether celebrating life's milestones or enjoying the simple moments of everyday life, Willie treasured every opportunity to create lasting memories with those he held dear.

Willie shared 29 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Franci Simmons, whose love and companionship were among his life's greatest blessings. He was a proud and dedicated father to his daughter, Esther, and a caring godfather to his "Bonus son", Christopher Burack. He also leaves behind his Francisco siblings, brothers Phillip Cook and Billy Murphy, and his treasured Agape Church family, along with many relatives, friends, and loved ones who were touched by his kindness and generosity.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Geraldine McGee; his grandparents, Harold and Nearline McGee of Hot Springs, Arkansas; and his brother, Ricky.

A graduate of Hot Springs High School, Willie furthered his education at Draughon's Business School and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He enjoyed a successful career that included service with Northrop Grumman and sixteen years at Baptist Medical Center. Following a distinguished 32-year career as a Program Engineer, he retired in 2012 and embraced a role that became one of his greatest callings: being a full-time father to Esther. He faithfully volunteered at Agape Academy and rarely missed an event, activity, or milestone in her life. His love for his daughter was evident in every encouraging word, every act of support, and every moment he invested in helping her grow. Being Esther's father was among his proudest accomplishments.

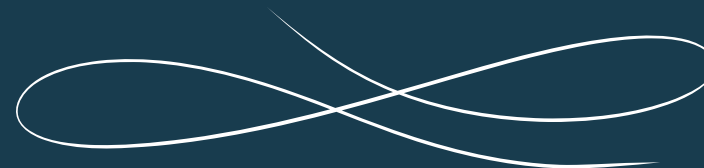
Willie's faith in Jesus Christ was the foundation of his life. His Christian walk was not simply something he professed, but something he demonstrated daily through his actions. His kindness, humility, generosity, and willingness to serve reflected the love of Christ to everyone around him. For twenty-nine years, Agape Church was his spiritual home, where he found lasting friendships, meaningful fellowship, and countless opportunities to serve. His steadfast faith and dependable spirit offered encouragement and comfort to many, and the example he set will continue to inspire those who knew him.

A servant at heart, Willie gave freely of his time and talents, often stepping forward to meet a need before anyone had to ask. He served faithfully through Agape Men's Ministry, where he shared his gift of hospitality by preparing meals, grilling, serving at church events, and mentoring young men. Through Agape Community Outreach, he ministered to children and families in local housing communities and helped distribute food to those in need. He also volunteered with Convoy of Hope, providing food assistance to families throughout the community.

Earlier in life, Willie was an active member of Toastmasters of Little Rock, where he earned numerous awards and recognition for his exceptional communication skills and eloquence. He was also deeply committed to mentoring young people through the Bright Futures Program at Christ the King. His involvement with Promise Keepers led him to serve on the organizing committee for the 1998 Promise Keepers Conference in Little Rock, helping coordinate logistics and promote the event throughout the community.

One of the most meaningful chapters of Willie's spiritual journey began through his service with Promise Keepers. After meeting Pastor Happy Caldwell and appearing on VTN to promote the conference, Willie was deeply impacted by Pastor Caldwell's integrity and leadership. That encounter led him to visit Agape Church, where he found the church family, community, and spiritual home that would remain such an important part of his life for nearly three decades.

Willie leaves behind a legacy that cannot be measured solely by achievements or years lived, but by the lives he touched, the faith he shared, and the love he so generously gave. His family and friends will forever cherish his wise counsel, gentle spirit, servant's heart, unwavering faith, and steadfast example. Though his earthly presence will be deeply missed, his memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. His life was a testament to faith, family, and service, and his influence will continue to be felt for generations to come.



"Well done, good and faithful servant"

Matthew 25:23